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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 18 May 1, 1956

Week ended April 28

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.

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MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Cattle receipts were largest since the second week of January. Wholesale beef prices showed some strength and demand for fed cattle broadened despite the increased run. Bulk of the slaughter steers and heifers sold steady to 50¢ higher although at a few markets where receipts were especially large, some late steer sales were steady to 50¢ lower. Hog marketings increased for the second straight week. Outlet was fairly broad, however, and prices of butchers held steady to 25¢ lower after approaching the season's highest levels at some markets at midweek. Old crop slaughter lambs advanced 50¢-$1.50 with spring lambs $1.00-2.00 higher a midwest markets.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Combined receipts of cattle at 12 markets reached the highest count since mid-January with numbers approximately 10% larger than the previous week. Contributing factors were continued dry weather over much of the midwest, late developing pastures, higher corn costs, and, in some areas, tax assessment on May 1 was an added inducement. Slaughter steer prices were very irregular. Some terminal markets were hampered by the increased numbers even though wholesale dressed beef generally showed strength. Evidence of the unevenness, Prime steers at Chicago were steady to 50¢ lower, average to high-Choice steady and lower grades steady to 50¢ higher. At Omaha and South St. Joseph, average Good and better were steady to 50¢ higher, others weak to 50¢ lower. At Sioux City high-Choice and Prime were steady, other grades weak to 50¢ lower. Prices at most other centers were steady to strong after regaining declines registered on Monday when supplies were largest of the week. Heifers sold mainly steady to 50¢ higher. Liberal cow receipts found prices ranging from steady to $1.00 lower, largely 25-50¢ off. Bulls were steady to 75¢ lower. Except for a dollar decline on vealers at Chicago, calves and vealers were steady to $1.00 higher, instances $2.00 up at St. Louis National Stockyards.

An increased showing of Good and low-Choice short-fed steers and decreased numbers of high-Choice and Prime steers with extreme weight resulted in lighter average weights of slaughter steers than in the previous week and lightest in several months at some centers. For example, the average weight at Sioux City was 1108, the lightest since mid-January.

Most Prime steers at Chicago brought $23.00-25.00, with 1600-1700# offerings at $22.00-23.00, and a load of average to high-Prime 1191# reached $27.00. Prime 1211# steers brought $24.75 at Omaha, Prime 1292# $24.00 at Sioux City, and at South St. Paul, Prime 1179# steers brought $23.50. Choice steers at midwest markets bulked from $18.50-21.00, Good and low-Choice $16.50-19.00. Good and Choice heifers at Corn Belt terminals bulked at $16.00-20.00, Prime 1075# reaching $22.00 at Chicago. Good and Choice vealers sold at South St. Paul and St. Louis National Stockyards from $18.00-22.00, high-Choice and Prime at the latter market from $22.00-26.00.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Marketings of stocker and feeder cattle and calves continued fairly large for this time of year. Shipments of steers to the country from the 10 markets during the week totaled 17,049, compared with 15,074 the previous week and 20,271 a year ago. In addition, dealers at several markets went into the weekend with a larger than normal number still on hand. Yearling stock steers again predominated. Quality as a whole was below that of the previous week. Numerous shipments of Good to low-Choice stockers were offered but not many showed sufficient quality to grade average-Choice or better. Only a very limited number of Choice calves was marketed and Choice fleshy 800-1000# feeders also were rather scarce. In some instances, dry weather forced cattle into market. While the number of such offerings has not yet reached sizable proportions, sub-normal moisture conditions over

a large part of the country influenced a relatively poor springtime demand for stockers. At the same time, recent upturns in the price of corn along with water shortages tended to slow the demand for feeders. Consequently, trading at most markets was slow at unevenly steady to 50¢ lower prices, stockers occasionally $1.00-1.50 lower. Feeder steers seldom showed more than a 50¢ decline and often were near steady. The average cost of $17.31 for all stocker and feeder steers 500# up shipped to the country from Kansas City was $4.07 under a year ago, while the average price of $18.45 for all fed steers sold there was $3.33 lower than a year ago. Thus, the price relationship between fats and feeders appeared more favorable than earlier this season. However, due to increased feeding costs in recent weeks, the price relationship is still not considered overly favorable. A few loads of Choice yearling stock steers sold from $19.50-20.00, majority Good and Choice yearlings $15.50-19.00. Bulk Good and Choice feeder steers 750# up sold from $15.50-18.50, few $19.00. The same grades of steer calves ranged from $16.00-21.50. A few Choice yearling feeder heifers sold from $17.00-17.50, heifer calves $18.00 down.

HOGS

Combined 12 terminal market and Interior Iowa-Southern Minnesota salable hog receipts were the largest since the forepart of March and about 24 percent larger than for the comparable week last year. Strength predominated in an active wholesale fresh pork trade and clearances were good. Shipping demand for hogs varied from moderate to good, but packers competed aggressively throughout the week for the increased run, and price changes were small. Compared with the previous Friday, butchers closed mainly steady to 25¢ lower, although at midweek prices at some centers approached the season's highest levels. Sows were mostly steady to strong. All interests competed for U. S. No. 1 and 2 butchers and these sold 25-75¢, instances $1.00 or more, above lots of comparable weights grading No. 2 and 3. Prolonged dry weather and higher corn prices influenced larger marketings of light-weight butchers at some points, and weights under 180# sold $1.00-2.00 below most 190-240#. Sows made up from 5 to 14% of total receipts, but weights under 350# were in very small supply.

Stocker and feeder pigs were fully steady at Sioux City where Good and Choice 120-150# sold from $12.50-13.00. Bulk of the same grades and weights brought $13.00-14.00 at South St. Paul. The few Good 130-140# pigs at Kansas City cashed from $12.25-12.50. Medium and Good 70-140# feeders sold steady at Memphis from $9.50-11.50.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Receipts at the 12 markets showed little change from the previous week, but were 30 percent smaller than the corresponding week of 1955. Slaughter lambs sold sharply higher, with prices in instances highest in a year or more. Advances of 50¢-$1.50 were common on old crop offerings with spring lambs at most points $1.00-2.00 higher, new-crop lambs advancing $2.00-4.00 at Fort Worth. Feeder lambs were scarce and little changed, but slaughter sheep sold steady to 50¢ lower. Continued reduced receipts compared with a year ago proved the main bullish factor in the slaughter lamb trade. Shorn lambs and new-crop offerings made up an increased proportion of the receipts. Good to Prime spring lambs sold at $20.50-25.00. Wooled lambs of the same grades realized $19.00-22.50, mainly $22.00 down, including high-Choice and Prime 118# lamb at $21.50. Good to Prime shorn lambs carrying No. 2 to summer shorn pelts brought $18.00-22.50. Some with No. 1 pelts reached $22.00 late and 120# weights cashed at $21.00. The price spread between wooled and shorn lambs all but disappeared as the higher dressing percentages of the latter tended to offset the difference in pelt credits. Cull lambs sold down to around $12.00. Shorn slaughter ewes bulked at $2.50-6.50, some freshly shorn Culls $2.25. Good and Choice feeder lambs cashed from $15.00-17.50.

Continued on page 366.

WEEKLY RECEIPTS OF SALABLE LIVESTOCK AT 12 PUBLIC MARKETS

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Apr. 28 1956	Apr. 30 1955	Apr. 28 1956	Apr. 30 1955	Apr. 28 1956	Apr. 30 1955	Apr. 28 1956	Apr. 30 1955
Chicago	50,773	52,145	2,027	1,999	52,046	41,762	9,059	17,299
Cincinnati	3,879	4,621	1,335	1,449	14,218	13,175	281	328
Denver	16,236	17,058	814	1,130	3,153	2,708	14,941	15,661
Fort Worth	8,247	13,339	1,468	2,541	3,502	2,489	34,796	49,033
Indianapolis	9,554	10,392	1,214	1,360	53,288	43,695	620	646
Kansas City	22,645	21,482	1,489	1,803	13,528	7,858	11,831	13,515
Oklahoma City	11,240	12,680	958	1,333	4,777	2,886	234	4,824
Omaha	42,188	46,949	913	885	43,472	39,997	9,926	15,596
St. Joseph	16,301	16,099	1,285	819	30,322	24,234	3,731	4,004
St. Louis NSY	21,211	17,461	3,790	3,918	67,307	45,307	1,642	3,327
Sioux City	25,744	27,226	470	316	32,769	28,836	2,282	3,883
S. St. Paul	24,470	26,971	9,271	9,769	53,603	52,082	3,456	5,410
Total	252,488	266,423	25,034	27,322	372,015	305,029	92,799	133,532
Apr. 21, 1956	230,349		23,340		346,357		90,737	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
Apr. 28, 1956	355,500	21,100
Apr. 21, 1956	329,500	23,100
Apr. 30, 1955	280,000	26,300

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month		Three months	
	Apr. 26 1956	Apr. 19 1956	Apr. 28 1955	Mar. 1956	Mar. 1955	Jan. - Mar. 1956	Jan. - Mar. 1955
Steers – 1001# up	358	567	692	1,486	3,143	4,877	7,285
901-1000	1,315	1,085	2,119	6,303	9,474	17,911	26,287
801-900	2,335	1,718	3,192	10,939	14,470	37,321	40,641
701-800	3,439	2,851	3,381	13,421	13,787	41,770	42,279
501-700	9,602	8,853	10,887	39,354	45,607	106,587	116,535
Total steers 10 mkts.	17,049	15,074	20,271	71,503	86,481	208,466	233,027
Av. wts. " " "	693#	696#	716#	702#	716#	711#	719#
Av.cost* " " "	$17.02	$17.38	$20.33	$16.82	$20.41	$16.67	$20.00
" " " Chicago	18.37	18.52	20.84	17.22	20.18	16.97	20.07
" " " Ks. City	17.31	18.15	21.38	17.44	21.28	17.20	20.75
" " " Omaha	16.62	17.14	20.18	16.66	20.54	16.47	19.97
" " " S. St. Paul	15.76	16.30	19.32	15.59	18.65	15.20	17.98
" " " Sioux City	17.26	17.43	20.39	17.49	20.89	16.93	20.40
" " " Denver	17.37	17.30	21.09	16.02	21.26	17.30	21.92
" " " Ft. Worth	16.63	16.87	18.59	16.33	19.83	16.31	19.06
" " " Okla. City	15.97	16.61	18.80	16.18	19.97	16.27	19.18
" " " S. St. Joseph	16.11	16.53	19.70	16.65	20.28	16.46	19.78
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	16.94	17.09	19.76	16.16	18.98	16.15	18.76
Total calves–10 mkts.	4,604	4,306	7,912	19,304	30,435	72,375	95,561
" cows.							
heifers, bulls– " "	3,922	3,465	4,680	11,143	15,810	34,968	46,467

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	26 1956	Apr. 19 1956	28 1955	26 1956	Apr. 19 1956	28 1955	26 1956	Apr. 19 1956	28 1955	26 1956	Apr. 19 1956	28 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	1651	1426	1183	5.1	4.9	3.5	1297	1298	1276	23.38	23.52	27.67
Choice	17827	18351	21365	54.6	62.9	62.7	1194	1183	1140	20.47	20.17	24.25
Good	11138	7386	9186	34.1	25.3	27.0	1041	1033	1013	18.41	17.93	21.36
Com'l.	1710	1825	1963	5.2	6.3	5.7	938	1013	985	15.97	15.77	17.87
Utility	309	173	373	1.0	.6	1.1	1009	953	884	14.34	14.14	15.57
All grades	32635	29161	34070				1132	1139	1098	19.75	19.57	23.26
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	328	156	168	1.8	.9	.8	1325	1376	1284	22.41	21.91	26.42
Choice	10371	9293	11869	55.9	53.6	54.8	1159	1183	1120	19.29	19.22	23.10
Good	6545	6495	7469	35.3	37.5	34.5	1013	1040	1007	17.45	17.60	20.83
Com'l.	972	1031	1645	5.2	6.0	7.6	966	978	974	15.30	15.42	18.04
Utility	343	355	509	1.8	2.0	2.3	887	861	932	13.66	13.43	15.80
All grades	18559	17330	21660				1096	1112	1067	18.49	18.39	21.89
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	234	97	54	2.1	1.3	.4	1290	1420	1197	22.36	21.52	26.43
Choice	7372	4985	6614	64.4	67.0	54.6	1154	1160	1132	19.38	19.33	22.95
Good	2974	1874	4066	26.0	25.2	33.6	1006	1025	1045	17.31	17.44	20.86
Com'l.	701	410	1126	6.1	5.5	9.3	1020	1037	959	15.46	15.71	18.18
Utility	164	77	252	1.4	1.0	2.1	961	973	1020	14.10	14.08	15.78
All grades	11445	7443	12112				1108	1120	1085	18.67	18.70	21.75
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	18	68	74	.3	1.1	1.6	1429	1267	1033	21.00	21.39	26.20
Choice	2146	2823	1632	36.3	43.6	34.3	1117	1093	1074	19.72	19.40	23.57
Good	3313	2905	2421	56.0	44.9	50.9	1054	1046	1019	17.94	17.99	21.33
Com'l.	399	531	604	6.8	8.2	12.7	1054	1005	943	15.60	15.52	17.84
Utility	36	140	23	.6	2.2	.5	1023	1060	949	13.97	13.99	15.68
All grades	5912	6467	4754				1077	1066	1028	18.45	18.39	21.78
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	19	--	--	.2	--	--	1117	--	--	22.50	--	--
Choice	2369	2241	828	28.0	32.6	15.8	1094	1076	1083	19.43	19.22	24.27
Good	4209	2702	3104	49.6	39.3	59.0	1004	1011	996	17.84	17.72	21.80
Com'l.	1566	1519	1212	18.5	22.1	23.0	928	955	917	16.28	16.23	19.38
Utility	316	408	115	3.7	6.0	2.2	909	858	819	14.57	14.59	16.50
All grades	8479	6870	5259				1012	1011	987	17.96	17.77	21.61
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	49	25	62	.8	.4	.8	1199	1165	1187	21.28	21.00	25.21
Choice	3358	2858	3480	54.6	47.6	47.5	1113	1130	1111	19.14	19.19	23.68
Good	1952	2343	3334	31.7	39.0	45.5	1067	1048	992	17.20	17.68	20.72
Com'l.	688	722	368	11.2	12.0	5.0	1027	969	945	15.60	15.70	17.43
Utility	102	59	88	1.7	1.0	1.2	904	860	857	13.02	13.30	15.21
All grades	6149	6007	7332				1086	1076	1046	18.10	18.20	22.05

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Apr. 26 1956	Apr. 19 1956	Apr. 28 1955	Apr. 26 1956	Apr. 19 1956	Apr. 28 1955	Apr. 26 1956	Apr. 19 1956	Apr. 28 1955	Apr. 26 1956	Apr. 19 1956	Apr. 28 1955
					DENVER 1/							
Prime	91	--	193	1.3	--	3.1	1247	--	1244	21.14	--	26.50
Choice	4936	4239	4722	69.9	65.6	74.7	1157	1127	1109	19.50	19.22	23.94
Good	1893	2154	1200	26.8	33.3	19.0	1059	1034	1072	18.12	18.19	21.76
Com'l.	97	72	203	1.4	1.1	3.2	1042	991	1006	15.36	15.87	16.71
Utility	46	--	--	.6	--	--	951	--	--	14.31	--	--
All grades	7063	6465	6318				1129	1095	1103	19.10	18.86	23.42

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	mil. lb.	mil. lb.
Apr. 28, 1956	387	212.1	147	17.2	1,369	180.3	271	13.0	422.6	47.2
Apr. 21, 1956	373	204.8	148	16.9	1,247	165.2	281	13.5	400.4	45.5
Apr. 14, 1956 1/	355	197.0	145	16.2	1,191	157.2	276	13.2	383.6	40.9
Apr. 30, 1955	376	202.3	141	15.9	1,069	146.8	313	15.0	380.0	36.6
Percentage change from:										
Apr. 21, 1956	+4	+4	-1	+2	+10	+9	-4	-4	+6	+4
Apr. 30, 1955	+3	+5	+4	+8	+28	+23	-13	-13	+11	+29

Week ended	Average weights (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed 2/	Live	Dressed	
Apr. 28, 1956	990	548	210	117	236	132	98	48	14.6
Apr. 21, 1956	995	549	205	114	235	132	99	48	15.5
Apr. 14, 1956	1,005	555	200	112	234	132	100	48	15.4
Apr. 30, 1955	964	538	204	113	245	137	99	48	14.0

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

TOTAL MEATS, MEAT PRODUCTS, AND BYPRODUCTS GRADED, OR CERTIFIED AS COMPLYING WITH SPECIFICATIONS BY THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Month	Beef	Veal and calf	Lamb yearling and mutton	Total	All other meats and lard	Grand total
	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#
March 1956	619,350	18,120	22,047	659,517	12,303	671,820
February 1956	562,778	16,542	22,557	601,877	12,761	614,638
March 1955	498,020	19,832	23,063	540,915	14,104	555,019

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	Apr. 28 1956	Apr. 30 1955	Apr. 28 1956	Apr. 30 1955	Apr. 28 1956	Apr. 30 1955	Apr. 28 1956	Apr. 30 1955
Boston, New York City Area	14,006	12,766	10,913	12,353	59,882	53,052	46,410	56,706
Baltimore, Philadelphia	7,819	7,706	1,065	1,296	28,463	23,850	2,723	2,136
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	18,530	18,418	8,867	7,420	107,230	79,476	14,574	12,740
Chicago Area	27,961	27,987	7,692	7,795	66,074	58,202	4,706	7,908
St. Paul-Wis Areas	32,322	31,413	29,546	31,061	108,219	91,560	7,777	10,887
St. Louis Area	16,041	15,410	4,795	5,666	99,814	69,911	8,212	9,418
Sioux City	12,797	9,463	106	6	21,820	14,292	3,934	3,932
Omaha Area	34,538	35,742	972	857	82,047	62,065	11,882	16,929
Kansas City	14,681	16,059	3,105	3,830	34,478	26,518	9,105	16,894
Iowa-So. Minnesota	32,383	28,148	11,830	12,885	307,393	237,588	24,849	29,104
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	9,372	9,541	6,445	9,112	55,957	46,512	Not available.	
Georgia-Alabama Area	6,439	7,170	3,138	3,139	26,701	21,054	--	--
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	19,267	18,829	4,161	3,244	61,191	38,561	16,950	18,856
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	14,884	21,596	7,810	7,722	19,560	17,069	27,442	33,307
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	18,133	17,398	1,142	1,074	15,574	13,913	24,886	19,823
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	26,573	26,963	3,407	3,417	36,436	33,022	29,025	31,090
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	7,189	7,129	602	468	15,264	14,400	3,837	3,587
Total	312,935	311,738	105,596	111,345	1,146,103	901,045	236,312	273,317
Accumulation to date	5,063,432	4,789,645	1,776,673	1,778,930	20,308,273	16,988,501	4,190,958	4,152,586

ACTUAL FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND REVISED ESTIMATE OF MEAT PRODUCTION BY WEEKS, MARCH 1956

Week ended	Cattle			Calves			Hogs			Sheep and lambs			Total meat prod.	Lard	
	Number	Av. dr. wt.	Prod.	Number	Av. dr. wt.	Prod.	Number	Av. dr. wt. 1/	Prod. 1/	Number	Av. dr. wt.	Prod.		Yield per 100 lb.	Prod.
	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	mil.lb.	lb.	mil.lb.
Mar. 10	358	576	206.2	142	112	15.9	1,582	127	200.6	265	49	12.9	435.6	15.8	57.4
17	355	567	201.3	146	109	15.9	1,445	128	184.6	261	49	12.7	414.5	15.5	51.9
24	350	565	197.8	154	109	16.8	1,329	127	168.5	299	49	14.6	397.7	14.5	44.4
31	340	560	190.4	144	108	15.6	1,245	127	157.9	278	49	13.5	377.4	15.6	44.9

1/ Excludes lard.

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	28 1956	Apr. 21 1956	30 1955	28 1956	Apr. 21 1956	30 1955	28 1956	Apr. 21 1956	30 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers -									
Prime 900-1100#	24.08	24.25	27.25	22.22	22.55	26.15	23.30	23.08	26.60
1100-1300	24.22	24.25	28.08	21.98	22.28	26.40	23.30	23.08	27.10
Choice 900-1100	20.95	20.80	24.45	19.95	19.92	23.82	19.98	19.82	23.62
1100-1300	20.95	20.68	24.45	19.70	19.80	23.82	19.98	19.80	23.62
Good 900-1100	18.22	17.98	20.88	17.45	17.40	20.68	17.05	17.15	20.28
Com'l. All wts.	15.82	15.58	17.75	15.30	15.42	17.52	14.98	15.12	17.95
Heifers -									
Prime 600-800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	19.42	19.18	22.15	19.30	19.15	22.05	19.38	19.30	22.02
Good 500-900	17.38	17.25	20.08	17.14	17.05	19.14	17.00	16.92	19.45
Com'l. All wts.	15.02	14.88	17.40	14.72	15.00	16.10	14.60	14.75	16.40
Cows - All weights									
Commercial	13.40	13.38	14.70	12.38	12.70	13.98	12.25	12.50	14.25
Utility	12.10	12.12	12.92	11.28	11.90	12.48	11.25	11.50	12.48
Canner & Cutter	10.75	10.58	11.10	9.95	10.80	10.90	10.00	10.25	10.45
Bulls - All weights -									
Good	13.10	13.25	14.00	--	--	--	13.18	13.25	12.88
Utility & Commercial	15.24	15.30	15.68	13.50	13.50	13.45	13.74	13.90	13.75
Vealers - All weights -									
Choice & Prime	24.20	24.50	25.90	20.00	20.00	22.50	21.00	21.00	21.00
Com'l. & Good	18.70	19.00	20.40	17.00	17.00	18.00	16.50	16.50	17.00
Calves - 500# down									
Choice & Prime	20.50	20.50	21.00	18.00	18.00	20.50	18.50	19.00	19.50
Com'l. & Good	15.75	15.75	16.50	15.00	15.00	16.50	15.00	15.00	15.50
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers -									
Choice 500-800#	19.75	19.75	23.25	19.25	19.75	23.25	18.70	19.28	23.62
Good " "	17.25	17.25	20.70	17.00	17.25	20.75	16.30	16.82	21.00
Medium 500-1000	15.50	15.50	17.52	14.75	15.25	17.75	14.02	14.40	18.00
Heifers -									
Choice 500-750	17.25	17.25	19.75	17.25	17.25	19.75	16.68	17.22	19.75
Med. & Gd. " "	14.50	14.50	16.25	14.50	14.75	16.75	13.90	14.15	16.50
Cows - All weights -									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	11.50	12.00	11.62	11.25	11.75	12.00
Calves - 300-500# -									
Steers -									
Good & Choice	21.00	21.00	22.50	19.50	20.00	22.25	19.08	19.90	23.00
Heifers -									
Good & Choice	17.50	17.50	19.50	16.75	17.25	18.75	16.18	16.80	19.75

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
		28 1956	Apr. 21 1956	30 1955	28 1956	Apr. 21 1956	30 1955	28 1956	Apr. 21 1956	30 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160–180#	14.08	13.92	16.18	12.66	12.72	15.28	13.98	13.82	16.80
2 and 3	180–200	15.12	14.98	17.23	14.19	14.30	16.52	15.28	15.05	17.48
	200–220	15.42	15.32	17.22	14.66	14.72	16.77	15.35	15.25	17.35
	220–240	15.45	15.30	17.06	14.40	14.42	16.67	15.34	15.13	17.12
	240–270	15.22	15.02	16.55	13.96	14.04	16.17	15.08	14.95	16.60
	270–300	14.96	14.72	16.06	13.44	13.55	15.58	14.75	14.55	15.78
Sows –										
	300–330#	14.02	14.00	15.22	13.13	13.18	14.50	13.90	13.60	14.65
	360–400	13.25	13.35	14.42	12.67	12.72	13.82	13.25	13.92	14.18
	450–550	12.32	12.35	13.18	11.60	11.65	12.76	11.95	11.90	12.92
Pigs (stocker and feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70–120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

		Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160–180#	--	--	--	14.85	14.56	17.09	--	--	--
2 and 3	180–200	15.32	15.25	17.25	15.42	15.16	17.34	14.90	14.75	16.85
	200–220	15.32	15.25	17.25	15.36	15.16	17.24	15.15	15.03	16.98
	220–240	15.32	15.25	17.22	15.34	15.16	17.00	15.12	15.03	16.88
	240–270	14.82	14.78	16.70	15.12	14.82	16.58	14.88	14.68	16.40
	270–300	14.45	14.38	15.78	14.75	--	16.08	14.10	13.95	15.55
Sows –										
	300–330#	13.55	13.50	15.12	13.38	13.32	14.85	13.75	13.70	14.68
	360–400	13.18	12.98	14.40	12.98	12.95	14.52	12.88	12.80	13.98
	450–550	12.22	12.00	13.62	12.12	12.15	13.45	11.90	11.65	12.80
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70–120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

		S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160–180#	14.55	14.10	17.22	15.81	15.34	17.69	16.59	17.00	19.50
2 and 3	180–200	15.45	15.22	17.22	16.47	15.97	18.12	16.97	17.12	19.91
	200–220	15.45	15.45	17.12	16.47	16.00	18.12	16.97	17.12	19.91
	220–240	15.28	15.15	16.88	16.12	15.59	17.78	16.72	17.00	19.75
	240–270	15.12	14.98	16.30	15.56	15.00	17.16	15.62	16.00	18.75
	270–300	14.08	13.78	15.62	14.22	14.03	16.25	15.25	15.38	18.00
Sows –										
	300–330#	13.45	13.12	14.78	12.28	11.88	14.47	14.00	14.00	16.75
	360–400	12.58	12.65	14.02	12.22	11.88	14.47	12.75	12.25	15.88
	450–550	11.95	11.75	12.78	10.69	10.62	11.53	11.50	11.00	15.00
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70–120#	13.50	13.25	17.55	--	--	--	--	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

	Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8-mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -					Dollars per 100 pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Apr. 28,1956	15.22	15.16	14.86	14.95	14.81	14.99	14.76	15.20	15.02
	Apr. 21,1956	14.98	14.95	14.72	14.85	14.62	14.84	14.67	15.06	14.86
	Apr. 30,1955	16.59	16.95	16.77	16.54	16.38	16.77	16.39	16.96	16.66
Sows	Apr. 28,1956	12.82	12.77	12.59	12.93	12.69	13.08	12.72	12.25	12.72
	Apr. 21,1956	12.91	12.67	12.54	12.73	12.48	12.83	12.72	12.12	12.65
	Apr. 30,1955	13.79	14.34	13.75	14.01	13.60	14.18	13.77	13.23	13.80
AVERAGE WEIGHT -					Pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Apr. 28,1956	231	218	219	226	228	216	224	223	223
	Apr. 21,1956	232	219	218	226	230	216	224	224	224
	Apr. 30,1955	242	219	230	239	239	229	233	226	232
Sows	Apr. 28,1956	420	402	403	383	383	385	387	444	404
	Apr. 21,1956	419	404	409	395	391	385	383	444	406
	Apr. 30,1955	423	412	437	394	393	398	379	452	407
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	Apr. 28,1956	40343	60063	12623	34913	27785	26701	44205	45239	291872
	Apr. 21,1956	35860	57969	13164	34175	24936	29506	37956	38233	271799
	Apr. 30,1955	32016	40717	7122	32372	23699	21223	41805	37360	236314
Sows	Apr. 28,1956	6713	4077	671	5283	2918	2021	5289	4749	31721
	Apr. 21,1956	6162	3625	765	4418	2061	1976	4053	3949	27009
	Apr. 30,1955	4353	2751	263	5585	2608	1941	5803	4210	27514
SOWS					Percentage of total					
	Apr. 28,1956	14	6	5	13	10	7	11	10	10
	Apr. 21,1956	15	6	5	11	8	6	10	9	9
	Apr. 30,1955	12	6	4	15	10	8	12	10	10

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Apr. 28, 1956	$17.55	$15.12	+$2.43
Apr. 21, 1956	16.99	14.98	+ 2.01
Apr. 30, 1955	18.73	17.23	+ 1.50

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs 180-200# wt.Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Apr. 28, 1956	15.22	153.3	9.9
Apr. 21, 1956	14.98	149.3	10.0
Apr. 30, 1955	16.59	146.6	11.3

1/ Simple average price.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS - 110# down (WOOLED) -								
Choice and Prime	Apr. 28, 1956	21.95	20.98	24.15*	--	21.50	--	20.75*
	Apr. 21, 1956	21.12	20.42	22.80*	--	20.22	--	19.75*
	Apr. 30, 1955	21.82	20.98	22.28*	--	20.38	--	20.50*
Good and Choice	Apr. 28, 1956	21.30	19.65	22.85*	21.40*	19.88	18.55	20.25*
	Apr. 21, 1956	20.42	19.25	21.38*	19.90*	19.15	17.75	19.25*
	Apr. 30, 1955	20.78	20.12	20.82*	20.60*	19.22	18.75	--
LAMBS - 105# down (SHORN) -								
Choice and Prime	Apr. 28, 1956	21.08	20.90	20.90	--	--	--	--
	Apr. 21, 1956	20.02	20.25	20.10	--	--	--	--
	Apr. 30, 1955	20.25	19.32	18.72	--	--	--	--
Good and Choice	Apr. 28, 1956	20.45	19.52	19.78	18.45	--	--	--
	Apr. 21, 1956	19.40	19.12	19.22	17.92	--	--	--
	Apr. 30, 1955	19.30	18.88	17.22	16.90	--	16.50	--
EWES (WOOLED) -								
Good and Choice	Apr. 28, 1956	6.85	5.00**	5.25**	--	6.88**	8.00	--
	Apr. 21, 1956	7.45	5.70	5.25**	--	7.12	7.25	--
	Apr. 30, 1955	6.88	5.12**	6.00**	--	6.28**	--	5.25*
Cull and Utility	Apr. 28, 1956	5.30	3.75**	4.00**	--	4.25**	5.25	--
	Apr. 21, 1956	5.75	3.95	4.00**	--	4.78	4.75	--
	Apr. 30, 1955	6.00	3.88**	4.50**	--	4.38**	--	3.75*
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	Apr. 28, 1956	--	--	--	--	17.88	--	--
	Apr. 21, 1956	--	17.25	--	--	17.80	--	--
	Apr. 30, 1955	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

*Spring lambs. **Shorn basis.

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St.Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul
			Feeders and stockers				
Apr. 27, 1956	2	38	10	8	4	14	7
Apr. 20, 1956	3	32	11	10	4	17	7
Apr. 29, 1955	4	41	11	12	7	17	7
			Slaughter cows				
Apr. 27, 1956	6	10	12	19	16	9	28
Apr. 20, 1956	6	9	11	17	12	7	28
Apr. 29, 1955	8	10	9	11	13	4	30

Week ended	Indian-apolis	Denver	Fort Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
			Feeders and stockers			
Apr. 27, 1956	6	5	30	35	29	55
Apr. 20, 1956	5	5	20	40	38	35
Apr. 29, 1955	7	12	30	50	33	30
			Slaughter cows			
Apr. 27, 1956	11	7	15	12	20	25
Apr. 20, 1956	11	8	15	15	19	35
Apr. 29, 1955	15	10	18	17	17	40

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Receipts of steer beef were normal in both packer branch and independent wholesale establishments. Cow beef and calf offerings were relatively small, with bulk unloaded Monday. Veal, calf and fresh pork receipts were moderate and somewhat smaller than the previous week. Trading was only fair early, but was fairly active after Wednesday, with chain stores most aggressive. Higher prices were paid at the outset for most classes except steer and cow beef. Commitments on a fair volume of primal steer cuts were made at the price levels of the previous week, which partially prevented upturns on this class. Early sales of veal, lamb and fresh pork were made under pressure, but the situation eased progressively. Early clearances of all classes seemed assured in view of increased buyer activity on the closing sessions. Compared with the previous week: Steer and cow beef steady; veal steady to $4.00 higher; calf $1.00 to $3.00 higher; spring lamb $1.00 to $2.00 up; old crop lamb $2.00-3.00 higher; pork loins steady to mostly $1.00 higher, other fresh pork cuts unevenly $2.00 lower to $3.00 higher.

Steer beef supplies consisted mainly of Choice carcasses scaling 700# up, but supplies of Prime and Good were slightly larger than the previous week. Movement into retail channels was satisfactory, but demand centered primarily on arm chucks and rounds. Fully steady prices were posted for cow beef.

Prices turned upward on veal grading Choice and below and all calf offerings. Jobbers and processors competed actively despite advanced prices. Higher prices were posted on both old crop and spring lamb, with small selected lots selling at substantial advances. Stocks cleared readily on all sessions.

Buyer response was more or less spontaneous on fresh pork. Supplies were reduced, particularly in packer branch houses. Loin prices eased around midweek, but subsequent inquiry was broad enough to offset the weakness, with late sales at the high time of the week. Other fresh pork cuts sold steady to $3.00 higher except fresh skinned hams which were $2.00 lower.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Demand for locally dressed fresh meats was generally satisfactory as beef sold about steady, with other classes finding ready outlet at higher prices. Movement of kosher classes was less dependable than the week previous, and daily clearances were slow. Kosher beef sold about steady, but veal, and old crop and spring lamb closed weak.

Daily steer kills included carcasses of most grades and weights. Lightweight hindquarters found ready outlet in distributive channels, with Prime quoted $1.00 higher, while prices on Choice were off $1.00. Selections out of heavyweight carcasses were diverted to fabricating accounts. A broad demand prevailed for rounds and arm chucks, while prices on loin cuts tended to ease progressively. Movement of kosher forequarters and relative cuts was mostly slow at unchanged prices.

Movement of veal was rather slow and prices lacked stability on opening sessions. Prices firmed, however, from Wednesday on, with higher prices posted on all grades and weights, the larger upturns registered on calf offerings. A reduction in local lamb kills and smaller receipts of Western dressed lamb lent stability to the trade on locally dressed carcasses and hindsaddles. Stocks of both old crop and liberal supplies of spring lamb cleared dependably. Kosher lamb foresaddles were under pressure, and sold lower for the most part.

Demand was only fair for an above normal supply of fresh pork up to midweek. Thereafter, demand was broad enough to fully absorb large quantities of various primal fresh cuts. Eight to 12# fresh loins predominated and sold in line with Western dressed offerings.

Local cattle slaughter was largest of the year, but slaughter of calves was a little below that of the previous week. The hog kill was among the largest of record for this time of year.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Steer and heifer beef supplies consisted primarily of Choice offerings. With the exception of Prime, beef supplies were adequate in most instances. Veal ran mainly to 80-130# weights, grading Commercial to Choice. Boning type calves were short for the demand. Old crop lamb appeared ample early in the week but moderated later. Supply of spring lamb showed a sizable increase compared to recent weeks. Fresh pork offerings were only moderate. Local pork trading was fairly active and good clearances were effected daily. All interests were active in the pork trade and this week's top of $46.50 for loins was the highest since September 19, 1955. Demand was fair for lighterweight veal carcasses grading low-Good and below, with trade otherwise rather slow. Carcass lamb prices registered daily advances under pressure of higher costs and moderate supplies rather than a broad demand. Most lamb cuts sold quite readily. Squarecut beef chucks and rounds were in exceptionally good demand locally and on shipping account. Sellers experienced some difficulty clearing beef ribs and loins. Price upturns on chucks and rounds were offset by lower rib and loin prices. Some beef loins and lamb legs are expected to be carried into next week, otherwise fresh meat clearances good. Compared to last Thursday's close: Beef steady to 50¢ higher; veal $1.00 higher; lamb $2.00-3.00 higher; pork loins $2.00-4.00 higher, other pork cuts $1.00 higher. Prime beef rounds cashed at $41.00-42.00, Choice $40.00-41.00; Prime loins $84.00-88.00, Choice $62.00-67.00; Prime ribs $55.00-57.00; Choice $39.00-42.00. Lamb hind- & saddles sold from $52.00-58.00, lamb legs $45.00-50.00, loins $61.00-68.00, ribs $52.00-57.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Volume of steer beef was more than adequate for a reduced demand at all points on the West Coast. Trade on beef chucks was fairly active in California due to recent rains and to some retail accounts featuring roasting meats. Cow beef, veal and calf continued in moderate to small supply; spring lamb barely adequate in California; fresh and cured pork more than sufficient, some accumulation of smoked meats. Trading for most steer beef was fair; cow beef fairly active; veal and calf fair to good; spring lamb active; fresh pork fair to slow; cured pork slow and draggy. Prices compared to last week's close: Steer beef steady to strong, instances Choice under 700# 50¢ higher at Los Angeles; cow beef steady to $1.00 higher, except for Canner and Cutter 50¢-$1.00 lower at San Francisco; veal and calf mostly steady; spring lamb strong to $3.00 higher; mutton weak to $2.00 lower on an increased supply; fresh pork loins $1.00-4.00 higher; other fresh cuts about steady although instances on shoulders $1.00 lower and Boston butts $2.00 higher at Los Angeles and spareribs $2.00 higher at San Francisco; smoked meat steady to $2.00 lower; lard steady to 50¢ higher.

Choice steer carcasses under 700# bulked from $32.50-35.00, some reaching $36.00 at San Francisco and Seattle; 700-800# $31.50-34.00; Good 500-700# $29.00-34.00. Commercial cow beef sold from $25.00-28.00, few soft-boned to $30.00; Utility $24.00-28.00; Canner and Cutter $23.00-25.00.

Good and Choice veal carcasses under 150# brought $37.00-42.00 in California, and $40.00-50.00 in the Northwest; same grades of calf under 300# $34.00-39.00; Commercial down to $29.00 at Los Angeles. Choice and Prime spring lamb under 55# sold from $39.00-45.00; Good $34.00-39.00. Fresh pork loins under 16# brought $45.00-50.00; shoulders $25.00-32.00; fresh skinned hams $44.00-50.00; smoked skinned hams under 18# $45.00-54.00; slab bacon under 10# $29.00-40.00; sliced 1# packages of bacon $36.00-44.00; smoked picnics $27.00-34.00; lard in 1# cartons $13.50-19.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
	28 1956	Apr. 21 1956	30 1955	28 1956	Apr. 21 1956	30 1955	28 1956	Apr. 21 1956	30 1955
Beef –									
Steer –									
Prime 600–700#	41.50	41.50	--	39.00	39.00	48.00	--	--	--
700–800	40.00	40.00	48.50	39.00	39.00	48.00	--	--	--
Choice 500–600	--	--	--	34.15	33.50	39.10	35.50	36.00	41.50
600–700	35.25	35.25	42.50	34.15	33.50	40.70	34.00	34.00	40.50
Good 350–600	32.00	32.00	38.30	31.05	30.30	36.30	33.00	33.00	38.00
Com'l. " "	28.00	28.00	32.90	28.70	28.25	32.50	30.00	30.00	35.00
Cow, all wts. –									
Commercial	27.75	27.75	29.80	--	--	--	28.50	28.50	29.50
Utility	25.50	25.50	26.50	--	--	--	25.50	25.50	25.50
Veal –									
Prime 80–110#	41.00	41.00	42.50	42.50	42.50	42.50	--	--	--
Choice " "	36.20	35.00	36.00	37.40	37.00	39.00	--	--	43.00
Good " "	30.90	28.50	33.50	34.40	34.00	36.70	41.00	41.00	39.00
Lamb –									
Prime 40–50#	46.00*	45.00*	44.20	42.30	40.15	43.30	41.00*	40.00*	41.40*
50–60	--	--	42.50	40.90	39.00	40.40	--	--	--
Choice 40–50	46.00*	45.00*	44.20	42.30	40.15	42.30	40.00*	39.00*	40.80*
50–60	--	--	42.50	40.90	39.00	39.40	--	--	--
Good all wts.	43.00*	41.50*	39.70	39.25	37.50	37.50	37.00*	36.00*	--
Pork – Fresh –									
Loins 8–10# av.	45.45	43.20	46.30	44.10	40.95	43.90	48.00	45.00	52.00
10–12 "	45.45	43.20	46.30	44.10	40.95	43.90	49.00	46.40	50.00
12–16 "	44.50	42.40	43.60	42.50	40.35	42.50	48.00	45.60	49.00
Butts 4–8 "	32.50	31.30	34.00	28.80	28.25	30.60	36.00	36.00	41.00
Pork – Cured –									
Hams, smk., skd. –									
12–16# av.	48.00	49.50	50.00	51.75	51.52	52.05	51.00	51.00	55.50
16–18 "	46.50	48.50	45.10	50.15	50.55	50.95	50.00	50.00	52.00
18–20 "	--	--	--	50.15	50.25	48.65	--	--	--
Bacon, smk., slab –									
6–8# av.	--	--	--	32.85	34.25	46.85	38.00	38.00	53.00
8–10 "	33.00	32.50	39.50	31.85	32.55	43.55	36.00	36.00	48.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.	39.00	39.00	50.50	38.20	38.75	51.30	40.00	40.00	51.00
Picnics, smoked –									
4–8# av.	25.00	25.00	33.00	30.75	30.15	35.20	30.00	30.00	38.00
Backs, D. S. –									
16–20# av.	14.00	13.50	15.50	12.12	12.00	11.50	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –									
Refined	16.25	16.25	17.00	16.25	15.45	16.15	18.25	17.85	18.50
Substitutes	--	--	--	--	--	28.00	--	--	--

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.
*Spring lamb.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

Trading of greasy domestic worsted wools in the Boston market was a little slower than a week earlier with demand mostly for 3/8s and 1/4 blood fleeces. Approximately sixteen cars were moved. Prices were slightly stronger for fleeces. Turnover of scoured wools was very slow in a wide range of prices. Topmakers were active in the territory States. Wools were purchased as shorn with a little contracting in the northern States. Eight months wool sold in Texas in fair volume while a little average style 12 months wool was also sold. Buying activity in the fleece wool States was moderate.

Prices showed a sharp advance in Australian auctions as keen competition prevailed. New Zealand quotations were posted on a higher level. Midweek reports from South Africa were 2½% above the previous sale with good competition. South American trade was generally dormant, except for small lots of coarse Argentine second clips for shipment to the United States.

Fleece Wools - Graded fine, good French combing and staple fleece wool sold at $1.25 clean basis while graded 56/58s good French combing and staple wool at 53½¢ and 54¢ in the grease cost clean from $1.01-1.03. A small quantity of graded 56/54s staple fleeces sold at $1.00 clean while 50/54s staple and good French at 53½¢ and 54¢ grease basis sold at clean prices ranging from 96¢-99¢. Graded 56/58s baby combing and average French combing fleece wool at 50¢ in the grease cost 98¢ clean basis while medium burry and seedy fleeces brought 43¢ grease basis. Country buyers were paying 40¢-42¢ to the grower in the fleece wool States.

Territory Wools - Bulk fine and 1/2 blood with an edge of 3/8s territory lambs wool 2½" and up sold in the grease at an estimated clean price around $1.08 while bulk fine and fine medium lambs wool brought $1.18. Buyers for topmakers were active in most of the territory States. Several pools of mixed, or grading wools, sold in Idaho at 41¢-43¢ f.o.b., while grease prices in Utah ranged from 38¢-43¢ and in Oregon/Washington 38¢-42¢ was paid. Bulk high half blood original bag clips in Nevada brought 42¢-45¢ while bulk fine and fine medium Montana wools sold around 45¢-47¢. Mixed yearling and ewe wool in the Sacramento Valley brought from 45¢-52¢ with lambs wool at 35¢ in the grease.

Texas Wools - Bulk good to average French combing 12 months Texas wool in original bags sold at $1.30 clean basis. Eight months wool continued to sell at 50¢-53¢ f.o.b. while bulk average French combing 12 months wool was estimated to cost $1.25 clean basis delivered Boston.

Mohair - Several cars of adult mohair sold in Texas at 87½¢ to the warehouse while scattered lots of kid hair were purchased in a range from 96½¢-$1.01½. Trade in the local market was practically at a standstill.

Sales of CCC Wools - The Commodity Credit Corporation announced on April 26 that approximately 1,040,000 pounds of C.C.C-owned wools were sold from bids received on a total of about 3,168,000 pounds. The principal grades, quantities and sales price ranges (before discounts, if any) follow:

	Pounds	Price range
Graded territory 1/2 blood average & Good French	82,505	$1.15 -1.20
" " 1/2 " Sh. French & clothing	19,842	1.10 -1.11
" " 1/4 " Staple & Gd. French 48/50s	50,000	1.06
" " Low 1/4 blood	14,839	.93
" " Common & braid	12,719	.85
O. B. Texas, 8 months, average to short	252,674	1.072- 1.102
O. B. Texas, fall, best length	542,215	1.062- 1.092
graded fleece 1/4 blood, staple & Good French 50/54s	47,978	1.001

MEAT ANIMALS - FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME, BY STATES, 1954 AND 1955

Farm production of meat animals in 1955 totaled 50.0 billion pounds, 5 percent more than the 47.4 billion pounds produced in 1954, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is the highest production of record. Production of cattle and calves in 1955 was an all time high. Sheep and lamb and hog production was also higher than in 1954. Cattle and calf production amounted to 57 percent of the total farm production of meat animals in 1955, with hogs furnishing 40 percent and the remaining 3 percent coming from sheep and lambs. In 1954, cattle and calves represented 58 percent of the total; hogs 39 percent; and sheep and lambs, 3 percent.

Gross income (cash receipts plus value of home consumption) from meat animals amounted to 8.5 billion dollars in 1955, 8 percent less than the 9.3 billion dollar income in 1954. The gross income in 1955 for cattle was above that of a year earlier but lower for hogs and sheep and lambs. The increase in gross income for cattle was due to larger marketings and a higher price for calves. While for hogs and sheep and lambs the decrease was due to lower prices, since marketings were larger. Cash receipts for farm marketings totaled 8.2 billion dollars, 8 percent below the 8.9 billion received in 1954.

Cattle and calves: Production of cattle and calves in 1955 was 28.4 billion pounds, compared with 27.6 billion pounds produced in the preceding year. The increase in production was the result of a record high calf crop. Gross income from cattle and calves amounted to 5.3 billion dollars, 2 percent more than the 5.2 billion dollars in 1954. Cash receipts totaled 5.2 billion dollars, about 79 million dollars more than in 1954. The average price per 100 pounds live weight received by producers in 1955 was $15.30 for cattle and $16.70 for calves. This was 40 cents per hundred pounds less than in 1954 for cattle, but 20 cents per hundred pounds more for calves.

Hogs: The production of hogs in 1955 totaled 20.0 billion pounds, 10 percent above the 18.2 billion pounds produced in 1954, but 21 percent below the record production of 25.4 billion pounds produced in 1943. Gross income from hogs at 2.9 billion dollars was 23 percent smaller than the 3.8 billion dollars income in 1954. Cash receipts of 2.7 billion dollars were 22 percent less than the preceding year. In 1955, the average price per hundred pounds was $15.00 compared with $21.60 in 1954 and the record of $24.10 in 1947.

Sheep and lambs: The estimated production of sheep and lambs in 1955 amounted to 1.6 billion pounds, only 5 million pounds more than was produced in 1954. The record production was 2.3 billion pounds produced in 1942. Gross income from sheep and lambs was 319 million dollars compared with 328 million in 1954. Cash receipts of 316 million dollars were 3 percent smaller than the preceding year. In 1955, sheep sold for an average of $5.87 per hundred pounds live weight and lambs at $18.40. In 1954, the selling price of sheep was $6.10 and lambs $19.10.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR LIVESTOCK, FEED AND WOOL 1/

Commodity and unit			Apr. 15 1956	Mar. 15 1956	Feb. 15 1956	Apr. 15 1955	Average Jan. 1947-Dec. 1949
Farm prices -							
Hogs	per 100 lb.	Dollars	14.30	12.30	12.00	13.60	21.90
Beef cattle	" "	"	15.00	14.40	14.00	16.70*	20.20
Calves	" "	"	16.80	16.70	17.00	17.50*	22.60
Sheep	" "	"	6.28	6.28	6.00	6.72*	9.15
Lambs	" "	"	18.20	18.10	17.70	19.50*	21.90
Wool	per pound	"	2/.403	2/.399	2/.402	2/.476	.460
Corn	per bushel	"	1.32	1.20	1.18	1.36	1.54
Oats	" "	"	.623	.618	.619	.727	.852
Barley	" "	"	.949	.925	.915	1.07	1.37
Hay, all baled	per ton	"	21.00	20.90*	21.20	22.40	22.40
Cottonseed	" "	"	46.90	46.80	46.20	53.40	71.60
							Apr. av. 1935-54
Hog-corn price ratio 3/							
United States		Bushel	10.8	10.2	10.2	12.2	13.0
N. Central States		"	11.0	10.4	10.2	12.5*	13.8
Iowa		"	10.8	10.4	9.8	12.3	--
Index numbers: (Av. Jan. 1910 - Dec. 1914 = 100)							1947-49
All farm products			233	230	226	247	271
Feed grains and hay			185	174	173	197	230
Meat animals			237	221	215	269	334
Prices paid by farmers -							
All commodities			261	261	259	265	240

1/ Estimates of Crop Reporting Board. 2/ Average local market price for wool sold; does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62¢ per pound. 3/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 pounds of hog, live wt. *Revised.

EFFECTIVE PARITY PRICES FOR LIVESTOCK, FEED AND WOOL 1/

Commodity and unit			Base period price 2/	Effective parity prices 3/ Apr. 15 1956	Mar. 15 1956	Apr. 15 1955
Hogs	per 100 lb.	Dollars	7.47	21.20	21.10	21.40
Beef cattle	" "	"	7.55	21.40	21.30	21.40
Calves	" "	"	8.26*	23.50	23.40	23.50
Lambs	" "	"	8.30	23.60	23.40	23.50
Wool	per pound	"	4/.214	.608	.603	.596
Corn	per bushel	"	5/.642	6/1.74	6/1.74	1.82
Oats	" "	"	.301	.855	.849	.866
Barley	" "	"	.472	1.34	1.33	1.35
Cottonseed	per ton	"	24.70	70.10	69.70	71.60

1/ Parity prices are computed under the provisions of Title III, Subtitle A, Section 301 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the Agricultural Acts of 1948, 1949 and 1954. 2/ Adjusted base price 1910-14 derived from 120 month, January 1946-December 1955, average, (including an allowance where appropriate for unredeemed loans and other supplemental payments resulting from price support operations) by dividing by 265 percent (the 120-month average of the Index of prices Received by Farmers adjusted to include an allowance for unredeemed loans and other supplementary payments) unless otherwise noted. Base period prices shown apply for 1956 only. 3/ Effective parity prices as computed currently in months indicated using base period prices and indexes then in effect. 4/ Adjusted base price 1910-14 derived from 10 season average prices 1946-55 (including an allowance where appropriate, for unredeemed loans and other supplemental payments resulting from price support operations). 5/ 60-month average August 1909-July 1914. 6/ Transitional parity, basic commodities 95 percent and nonbasic commodities 60 percent (70 percent during 1955) of parity price computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950. *Revised.

UNITED STATES FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION
March 1956 - with comparisons

	March		January - March		Percentage Mar. 1956 of	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	Mar. 1955	5-yr. Mar.av.
Number slaughtered under Federal inspection: (thousand of head) -						
Cattle	1,566	1,524	4,746	4,359	103	126
Calves	647	660	1,835	1,740	98	120
Hogs	6,327	5,491	18,954	15,648	115	122
Sheep & lambs	1,216	1,244	3,708	3,547	98	115
Average live weight: (pounds)						
Cattle	1,007.8	976.7	1,015.8	981.1	103	102
Steers 1/	1,047.2	1,002.8	--	--	104	104
Heifers 1/	895.3	866.2	--	--	103	104
Cows 1/	1,009.9	996.2	--	--	101	100
Calves	197.2	185.8	205.7	199.0	106	109
Hogs	230.6	239.2	233.9	241.8	96	97
Sheep & lambs	102.1	103.2	101.6	102.2	99	99
Average cost to packers: (dollars per 100 pounds)						
Cattle	15.76	18.23	15.56	17.82	86	72
Steers 1/	17.50	21.73	--	--	81	68
Heifers 1/	16.87	20.27	--	--	83	69
Cows 1/	11.20	11.78	--	--	95	67
Calves	16.99	17.83	17.10	17.74	95	76
Hogs	12.83	15.89	12.15	16.34	81	65
Sheep & lambs	18.99	21.18	18.64	20.42	90	78
Dressing yields: (per 100 pounds live weight)						
Cattle	56.5	55.5	56.1	55.1	--	--
Calves	55.9	56.0	55.6	55.6	--	--
Hogs 2/	76.2	77.0	76.2	77.1	--	--
Sheep & lambs	47.9	48.0	47.9	47.9	--	--
Lard per 100#	15.4	14.5	15.1	14.8	--	--
Lard per animal	35.5	34.6	35.3	35.7	--	--
Average dressed weight: (pounds)						
Cattle	569.4	542.1	570.1	540.1	--	--
Calves	110.2	104.0	114.4	110.6	--	--
Hogs	175.7	184.2	178.3	186.4	--	--
Sheep & lambs	48.9	49.5	48.7	49.0	--	--
Condemnations 5/ (number of head)						
Cattle	6,209	6,833	18,815	19,135	--	--
Calves	4,531	4,313	13,835	12,054	--	--
Hogs	12,204	10,345	35,588	29,151	--	--
Sheep & lambs	3,333	3,196	10,008	9,588	--	--
Total dressed weight - Excluding condemned: (thousands of pounds)						
Beef	888,128	822,722	2,695,347	2,343,629	108	130
Veal	70,768	68,145	208,225	191,081	104	129
Pork(carcass wt.)	1,109,446	1,009,567	3,373,822	2,911,866	110	118
Lamb & mutton	59,290	61,429	180,270	173,413	97	114
Total 3/	2,127,632	1,961,863	6,457,664	5,619,990	108	123
Pork, excl. lard	803,772	749,899	2,460,111	2,149,982	107	116
Lard production 4/	224,101	189,884	668,197	557,513	118	126
Rendered pork fat	11,349	9,787	32,373	27,122	116	132

1/ Also included with cattle. 2/ Subtract 7.0 to obtain reported packer style average. 3/ Totals based on unrounded numbers. 4/ Includes rendered pork fat. 5/ Partly estimated.

CLASSIFICATION OF LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION 1/

	Number (000 omitted)				Percent			
	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1956	Jan.-Mar. 1956	Mar. 1955	Mar. 1956	Feb. 1956	Jan.-Mar. 1956	Mar. 1955
Cattle:								
Steers	893	803	2,591	773	57.0	54.1	54.6	50.7
Heifers	255	230	745	261	16.3	15.5	15.7	17.1
Cows	393	426	1,331	463	25.1	28.7	28.0	30.4
Bulls & stags	25	25	79	27	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8
Total 2/	1,566	1,484	4,746	1,524	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Canners & cutters 3/	196	202	655	210	12.5	13.6	13.8	13.8
Hogs:								
Sows	392	320	1,088	291	6.2	5.4	5.7	5.3
Barrows & gilts	5,909	5,567	17,772	5,162	93.4	94.0	93.8	94.0
Stags & boars	25	36	94	38	.4	.6	.5	.7
Total 2/	6,326	5,923	18,954	5,491	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sheep and lambs:								
Lambs & yearlings	1,189	1,136	3,625	1,214	97.8	97.7	97.8	97.6
Sheep	27	27	83	30	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.4
Total 2/	1,216	1,163	3,708	1,244	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Based on reports from packers. 2/ Totals based on rounded numbers.
3/ Included in cattle classification.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION, BY CLASSES, OF CATTLE SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

Region	Steers		Heifers		Cows		Bulls and Stags		Canners & Cutters all classes	
	Mar. 1956	Mar. 1955	Mar. 1956	Mar. 1955	Mar. 1956	Mar. 1955	Mar. 1956	Mar. 1955	Mar. 1956	Mar. 1955
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
N. Atlantic States..	67.0	61.2	1.6	2.4	30.3	34.9	1.1	1.5	16.6	23.9
S. Atlantic States..	62.0	53.9	4.0	3.4	30.5	38.7	3.5	4.0	19.6	26.0
N.C. States -Eastern	63.0	56.4	5.9	7.0	29.3	34.7	1.8	1.9	14.8	14.0
N.C.States-N.Western	57.2	51.9	18.6	19.0	22.9	27.6	1.3	1.5	10.4	9.0
N.C.States-S.Western	64.7	60.3	16.2	17.7	18.6	21.3	.5	.7	7.7	9.5
S. Central States...	44.2	28.0	10.5	14.3	42.4	54.5	2.9	3.2	27.5	30.1
Mountain States.....	26.2	24.8	60.2	55.6	12.6	17.9	1.0	1.7	5.2	7.6
Pacific States.....	60.6	52.2	17.5	20.9	20.0	25.1	1.9	1.8	6.1	8.4

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LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 349

WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW

Slaughter steers, heifers and cows sold steady to 50¢ higher in the Northwest; heifers steady to 25¢ higher at Denver and cows 50-75¢ up at Los Angeles. With those exceptions, trend was steady to 50¢ lower on slaughter cattle. Late prices for calves and vealers were largely steady; barrows and gilts steady to 50¢ lower; slaughter lambs $1.00-1.75 higher; stocker and feeder cattle steady to weak. Several loads of high-Choice and Prime 960-1230# fed steers brought $21.00-21.50 at terminal markets, high-Good to average-Choice $18.50-20.50, a few loads 1400-1535# at Denver $18.25-18.75. Most Good steers cashed from $17.00-19.25. Average to high-Choice 870-1090# fed heifers brought $19.25-19.75 at Denver, other Choice throughout the area $18.50-19.25. Choice vealers sold up to $28.00 at North Portland, to $24.00 at Ogden, bulk Good and Choice $19.00-23.00. Good and Choice stocker and feeder steers bulked from $17.00-19.00.

Direct trade on slaughter steers and heifers at California feedlots opened slow but closed fairly active, prices mainly steady, heifers in instances 50¢ higher. Good and Choice slaughter steers cashed from $19.00-21.00; same grades heifers $17.00-19.00, few loads $19.50-20.00. A few thousand Good and Choice yearling and 2-year-old feeder steers earned $17.00-18.00; comparable heifers $15.50-16.50; 150 stock calves f.o.b. Arizona, steers at $18.75, heifers $17.25.

Mixed lots U. S. No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts sold late at South San Francisco at $16.75; Stockton $16.50-17.00; Los Angeles $16.00-17.00; North Portland $16.75-17.75; Spokane $16.00-16.25; Ogden $16.00-16.50; Denver $15.25-16.00. Choice and Prime 89-108# spring lambs brought $22.50-24.00 at North Portland and Denver, $20.50-21.00 at other terminals; Choice 98-106# fed wooled old crop lambs $22.00 at Denver, Good and Choice up to 115# $19.50-21.00; same grades 95-107# with No. 1 and 2 pelts $19.75-21.00. In the direct trade, a string of 3,000 spring lambs on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley was contracted at $22.00 with delivery at grower's option up to June 15, these expected to be Choice and Prime near 100# when delivered. Other Choice and Prime were contracted at $21.00-21.75 including 3,000 in Kern County for June delivery at $21.75 for those averaging 95# or under, with 10¢ cwt. discount for each pound over 95#. Several thousand Choice spring lambs sold in the Sacramento Valley at $21.00 for immediate up to May 15 delivery. One band of 3,100 spring lambs shorn April 1 sold at $21.50 for May 15 to June 1 delivery, these expected to be Choice and Prime 95-105# when delivered.